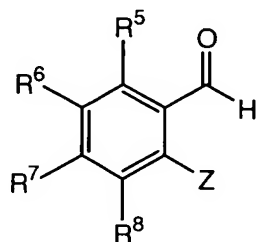


AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

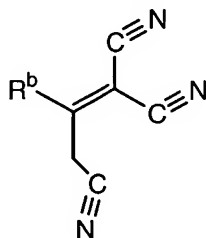
Please replace the paragraph [00013] with the following amended paragraph:

[00013] Briefly, therefore the present invention is directed to a novel method of making a tricyclic aminocyanopyridine MK-2 inhibiting compound, the method comprising:

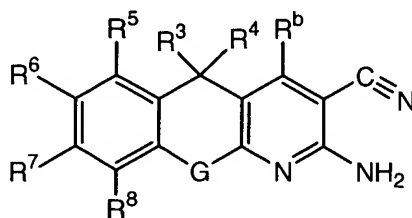
reacting a substituted benzaldehyde having the structure:



with a tricarbonitrile having the structure:



to form an aminocyanopyridine compound having the structure:



wherein:

Z is selected from the group consisting of -OH, -SH, and -NR^aY;

R^a [[R_a]] is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, and heteroaryl;

Y is a protecting group for nitrogen that is selected from the group consisting of benzyl, allyl, alkyl carbamates and benzyl carbamate;

G is selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen;

when G is oxygen, it has no substituent groups;

when G is sulfur, it is either unsubstituted, or is substituted with one or two oxo groups;

when G is nitrogen, it is substituted with C₁-C₄ alkyl;

R^b is selected from the group consisting of furyl and -NH-R²;

R² is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, alkoxyaryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkylcarboxy, and carboxyalkyl;

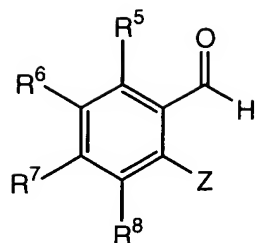
R³ and R⁴ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, dicyanoalkyl, and substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclyl and cyclyl, where substituents, if any, comprise halo moieties; and

R⁵, R⁶, R⁷ and R⁸ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, alkoxy, halo, alkyl, alkenyl, alkyl, arylalkyl, alkylaryl, amino, alkylamino, arylamino, alkylaminoalkyl, carboxy, aminoalkoxy, alkylcarboxyalkyl, alkylamino, aminoalkyl, nitro, aryl, arylamino, alkenoxy, hydroxyalkoxy, alkoxyalkoxy, heterocyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkoxy, carboxyalkoxy, alkylaminoalkoxy, alkylcarboxyalkoxy, pyrrolidylethoxy, hydroxyalkoxy, and alkylcarboxy, where R⁶ and R⁷ are such that they optionally join to form a six membered heterocyclic ring.

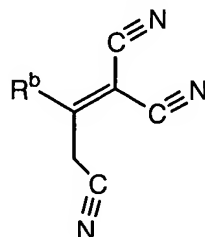
Please replace the paragraph [00014] with the following amended paragraph:

[00014] The present invention is also directed to a novel method of making a tricyclic aminocyanopyridine MK-2 inhibiting compound, the method comprising:

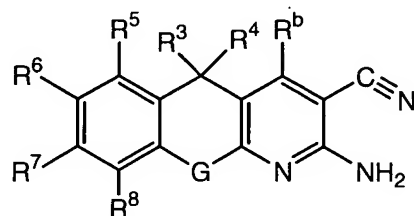
reacting a substituted benzaldehyde having the structure:



with a tricarbonitrile having the structure:



to form an aminocyanopyridine compound having the structure:



wherein:

Z is selected from the group consisting of -OH, -SH, and -NR^aY;

R^a [[R_a]] is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, and heteroaryl;

Y is a protecting group for nitrogen that is selected from the group consisting of benzyl, allyl, alkyl carbamates and benzyl carbamate;

G is selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen;

when G is oxygen, it has no substituent groups;

when G is sulfur, it is either unsubstituted, or is substituted with one or two oxo groups;

when G is nitrogen, it is substituted with C₁-C₄ alkyl;

R^b is selected from the group consisting of furyl and -NH-R²;

R² is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, alkoxyaryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkylcarboxy, and carboxyalkyl;

R³ and R⁴ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, dicyanoalkyl, and substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclyl and cyclyl, where substituents, if any, comprise halo moieties; and

R⁵, R⁶, R⁷ and R⁸ are each independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, halo, nitro,

branched or unbranched C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₂-C₆ alkenyl, C₂-C₆ alkynyl, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, hydroxy C₁-C₆ alkyl, hydroxy C₁-C₆ alkoxy, C₁-C₆ alkoxy C₁-C₆ alkoxy, C₁-C₆ alkoxy C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₂-C₆ alkenoxy,

branched or unbranched amino C₁-C₆ alkyl, diamino C₂-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkylamino C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkylamino, di-(C₁-C₆ alkyl)amino, C₁-C₄ alkoxyarylamino, C₁-C₄ alkoxyalkylamino, amino C₁-C₆ alkoxy, di-(C₁-C₄ alkylamino, C₂-C₆ alkoxy, di-(C₁-C₆ alkyl)amino C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkylamino C₁-C₆ alkoxy, halo C₁-C₆ alkoxy, dihalo C₁-C₆ alkoxy, trihalo C₁-C₆ alkoxy, cyano C₁-C₆ alkyl, dicyano C₁-C₆ alkyl, cyano C₁-C₆ alkoxy, dicyano C₁-C₆ alkoxy, carbamyl C₁-C₄ alkoxy, heterocyclyl C₁-C₄ alkoxy, heteroaryl C₁-C₄ alkoxy, sulfo, sulfamyl, C₁-C₄ alkylaminosulfonyl, hydroxy C₁-C₄ alkylaminosulfonyl, di-(C₁-C₄ alkyl)aminosulfonyl, C₁-C₄ alkylthio, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfonyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfinyl,

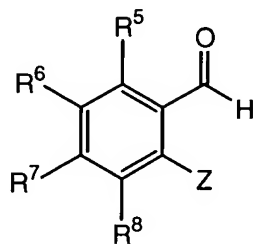
aryl, aryl C₁-C₆ alkyl, heterocyclyl C₁-C₆ alkyl, heteroaryl C₁-C₆ alkyl, heterocyclyl C₁-C₆ alkoxy, heteroaryl C₁-C₆ alkoxy, aryl C₁-C₆ alkoxy, where the aryl ring can be substituted or unsubstituted, and, if substituted, the substituent group is selected from one or more of the group consisting of C₁-C₆ alkyl, halo, amino, and C₁-C₆ alkoxy,

substituted or unsubstituted C₃-C₆ cyclyl, C₃-C₆ heterocyclyl, and, if substituted, the substituent group is selected from one or more of the group consisting of C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, halo, amino, and where the C₃-C₆ heterocyclyl ring contains O, S, or N,

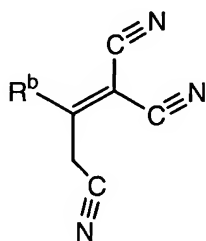
branched or unbranched C₁-C₆ alkoxycarbonyl C₁-C₆ alkoxy, and carboxy, carboxy C₁-C₆ alkoxy, carboxy C₁-C₆ alkyl, hydroxy C₁-C₄ alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxycarbonyl.

Please replace the paragraph [00017] with the following amended paragraph:

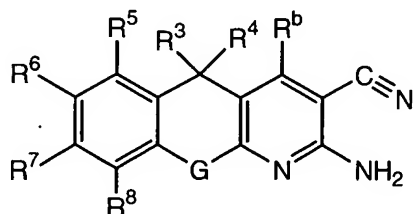
[00017] It has been discovered that these compounds can be produced by reacting a substituted benzaldehyde having the structure:



with a tricarbonitrile having the structure:



to form an aminocyanopyridine compound having the structure:



wherein:

Z is selected from the group consisting of -OH, -SH, and -NR^aY;

R^a [[R_a]] is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, and heteroaryl;

Y is a protecting group for nitrogen that is selected from the group consisting of benzyl, allyl, alkyl carbamates and benzyl carbamate;

G is selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen;

when G is oxygen, it has no substituent groups;

when G is sulfur, it is either unsubstituted, or is substituted with one or two oxo groups;

when G is nitrogen, it is substituted with C₁-C₄ alkyl;

R^b is selected from the group consisting of furyl and -NH-R²;

R² is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, alkoxyaryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkylcarboxy, and carboxyalkyl;

R³ and R⁴ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, dicyanoalkyl, and substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclyl and cyclyl, where substituents, if any, comprise halo moieties; and

R⁵, R⁶, R⁷ and R⁸ are each independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, halo, nitro,

branched or unbranched C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₂-C₆ alkenyl, C₂-C₆ alkynyl, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, hydroxy C₁-C₆ alkyl, hydroxy C₁-C₆ alkoxy, C₁-C₆ alkoxy C₁-C₆ alkoxy, C₁-C₆ alkoxy C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₂-C₆ alkenoxy,

branched or unbranched amino C₁-C₆ alkyl, diamino C₂-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkylamino C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkylamino, di-(C₁-C₆ alkyl)amino, C₁-C₄ alkoxyarylamino, C₁-C₄ alkoxyalkylamino, amino C₁-C₆ alkoxy, di-(C₁-C₄ alkylamino, C₂-C₆ alkoxy, di-(C₁-C₆ alkyl)amino C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkylamino C₁-C₆ alkoxy, halo C₁-C₆ alkoxy, dihalo C₁-C₆ alkoxy, trihalo C₁-C₆ alkoxy, cyano C₁-C₆ alkyl, dicyano C₁-C₆ alkyl, cyano C₁-C₆ alkoxy, dicyano C₁-C₆ alkoxy, carbamyl C₁-C₄ alkoxy, heterocyclyl C₁-C₄ alkoxy, heteroaryl C₁-C₄ alkoxy, sulfo, sulfamyl, C₁-C₄ alkylaminosulfonyl, hydroxy C₁-C₄ alkylaminosulfonyl, di-(C₁-C₄ alkyl)aminosulfonyl, C₁-C₄ alkylthio, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfonyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfinyl,

aryl, aryl C₁-C₆ alkyl, heterocyclyl C₁-C₆ alkyl, heteroaryl C₁-C₆ alkyl, heterocyclyl C₁-C₆ alkoxy, heteroaryl C₁-C₆ alkoxy, aryl C₁-C₆ alkoxy, where the aryl ring can be substituted or unsubstituted, and, if substituted, the substituent group is selected from one or more of the group consisting of C₁-C₆ alkyl, halo, amino, and C₁-C₆ alkoxy,

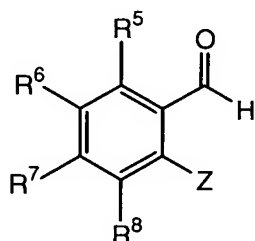
substituted or unsubstituted C₃-C₆ cyclyl, C₃-C₆ heterocyclyl, and, if substituted, the substituent group is selected from one or more of the group consisting of C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, halo, amino, and where the C₃-C₆ heterocyclyl ring contains O, S, or N,

branched or unbranched C₁-C₆ alkoxycarbonyl C₁-C₆ alkoxy, and

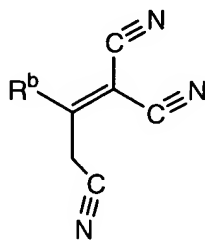
carboxy, carboxy C₁-C₆ alkoxy, carboxy C₁-C₆ alkyl, hydroxy C₁-C₄ alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxycarbonyl.

Please replace the paragraph [00051] with the following amended paragraph:

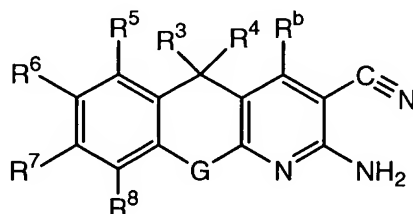
[00051] In an embodiment of this method of synthesis as described above, a tricyclic aminocyanopyridine MK-2 inhibiting compound can be prepared by reacting a substituted benzaldehyde having the structure:



with a tricarbonitrile having the structure:



to form an aminocyanopyridine compound having the structure:



wherein:

Z is selected from the group consisting of -OH, -SH, and -NR^aY;

R^a [[R_a]] is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, and heteroaryl;

Y is a protecting group for nitrogen. Examples of such nitrogen protecting groups include benzyl, allyl, alkyl carbamates and benzyl carbamates.

G is selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen;
when G is oxygen, it has no substituent groups;
when G is sulfur, it is either unsubstituted, or is substituted with one or two oxo groups;

when G is nitrogen, it is substituted with C₁-C₄ alkyl;

R^b is selected from the group consisting of furyl and -NH-R²;

R² is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, alkoxyaryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkylcarboxy, and carboxyalkyl;

R³ and R⁴ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, dicyanoalkyl, and substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclyl and cyclyl, where substituents, if any, comprise halo moieties; and

R⁵, R⁶, R⁷ and R⁸ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, alkoxy, halo, alkyl, alkenyl, alkyl, arylalkyl, alkylaryl, amino, alkylamino, arylamino, alkylaminoalkyl, carboxy, aminoalkoxy, alkylcarboxyalkyl, alkylamino, aminoalkyl, nitro, aryl, arylamino, alkenoxy, hydroxyalkoxy, alkoxyalkoxy, heterocyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkoxy, carboxyalkoxy, alkylaminoalkoxy, alkylcarboxyalkoxy, pyrrolidylethoxy, hydroxyalkoxy, and alkylcarboxy, where R⁶ and R⁷ are such that they optionally join to form a six membered heterocyclic ring.

Please replace the paragraph [00054] with the following amended paragraph:

[00054] In an embodiment of the present method,

Z is selected from the group consisting of -OH, -SH, and -NR^aY;

R^a[[R_a]] is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, and heteroaryl;

Y is a protecting group for nitrogen that is selected from the group consisting of benzyl, allyl, alkyl carbamates and benzyl carbamate;

G is selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen;

when G is oxygen, it has no substituent groups;

when G is sulfur, it is either unsubstituted, or is substituted with one or two oxo groups;

when G is nitrogen, it is substituted with C₁-C₄ alkyl;

R^b is selected from the group consisting of furyl and -NH-R²;

R² is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, alkoxyaryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, arylaminoalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkylcarboxy, and carboxyalkyl;

R³ and R⁴ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, dicyanoalkyl, and substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclyl and cyclyl, where substituents, if any, comprise halo moieties; and

R⁵, R⁶, R⁷ and R⁸ are each independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, halo, nitro,

branched or unbranched C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₂-C₆ alkenyl, C₂-C₆ alkynyl, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, hydroxy C₁-C₆ alkyl, hydroxy C₁-C₆ alkoxy, C₁-C₆ alkoxy C₁-C₆ alkoxy, C₁-C₆ alkoxy C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₂-C₆ alkenoxy,

branched or unbranched amino C₁-C₆ alkyl, diamino C₂-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkylamino C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkylamino, di-(C₁-C₆ alkyl)amino, C₁-C₄ alkoxyarylamino, C₁-C₄ alkoxyalkylamino, amino C₁-C₆ alkoxy, di-(C₁-C₄ alkylamino, C₂-C₆ alkoxy, di-(C₁-C₆ alkyl)amino C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkylamino C₁-C₆ alkoxy, halo C₁-C₆ alkoxy, dihalo C₁-C₆ alkoxy, trihalo C₁-C₆ alkoxy, cyano C₁-C₆ alkyl, dicyano C₁-C₆ alkyl, cyano C₁-C₆ alkoxy, dicyano C₁-C₆ alkoxy, carbamyl C₁-C₄ alkoxy, heterocyclyl C₁-C₄ alkoxy, heteroaryl C₁-C₄ alkoxy, sulfo, sulfamyl, C₁-C₄ alkylaminosulfonyl, hydroxy C₁-C₄ alkylaminosulfonyl, di-(C₁-C₄ alkyl)aminosulfonyl, C₁-C₄ alkylthio, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfonyl, C₁-C₄ alkylsulfanyl,

aryl, aryl C₁-C₆ alkyl, heterocyclyl C₁-C₆ alkyl, heteroaryl C₁-C₆ alkyl, heterocyclyl C₁-C₆ alkoxy, heteroaryl C₁-C₆ alkoxy, aryl C₁-C₆ alkoxy, where the aryl ring can be substituted or unsubstituted, and, if substituted, the substituent group is selected from one or more of the group consisting of C₁-C₆ alkyl, halo, amino, and C₁-C₆ alkoxy,

substituted or unsubstituted C₃-C₆ cyclyl, C₃-C₆ heterocyclyl, and, if substituted, the substituent group is selected from one or more of the group consisting of C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, halo, amino, and where the C₃-C₆ heterocyclyl ring contains O, S, or N,

branched or unbranched C₁-C₆ alkoxycarbonyl C₁-C₆ alkoxy, and carboxy, carboxy C₁-C₆ alkoxy, carboxy C₁-C₆ alkyl, hydroxy C₁-C₄ alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxycarbonyl.